

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 02313 131354Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 (ISO) W
-----037989 131619Z /43

R 131156Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8914
INFO USIA WASHEC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 2313

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINZ SHUM SSCE, HU

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE ON HUNGARIAN TELEVISION

1. HUNGARIAN TELEVISION BORADCAST ANOTHER OF ITS INTER-
NATIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES JULY 8. THIS TIME THE
TOPIC WAS HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR THE FIRST TIME THE APNEL WAS
CONSIDERABLEY OUT OF BALANCE.

2. JANOS HAJDU, JOURNALIST FROM NEPSZABADSAG AND TV COM-
MENTATOR, CHAIRED THE DISCUSSION. EWART GUINIER, PROFESSOR
OF POLITICS AND TRADE UNION AFFAIRS AT HARVARD IFIVERSITY,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUDAPE 02313 131354Z

GARTH STRACHAN, SOUTH AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFRICAN
NATIONAL CONGRESS, JEAN SCHWOEBEL FROM LE MONDE,
PIERO PIERALLI, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF
THE PCI AND OF THE ITALIAN SENATE, AND IVAN BOLDIZSAR,
EDITOR OF THE NEW HUNGARIAN QUARTERLY, WERE PANEL
MEMBERS. EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS WERE REPORTED BY FBIS.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE HUNGARIANS WISHED TO ACCOMPLISH TWO GOALS: ONE, TO POINT OUT THAT WESTERN CRITICISM OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN THE REALM OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS ONE-SIDED AND UNFAIR, SINCE MUCH STILL HAD TO BE DONE BY THE WESTERN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES: AND, TWO, TO WARD OFF FURTHER CRITICISM BECAUSE THAT CRITICISM MIGHT, ACCORDING TO HAJDU, "RESTRICT AND HINDER EVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF THE TOLERANCE AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH WE, IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES NEED EVERYWHERE." CONTINUED. "... IF WE ARE ATTACKED FROM OUTSIDE AND FORCED INTO A DEFENSIVE POSITION ALL THE TIME THEN WE ARE BACK IN THE YEARS OF THE COLD WAR WHEN IT IS MUCH EASIER TO SAY DISCIPLINE MUST COME FIRST AND TOLERANCE ONLY AFTERWARDS."

4. THE PARTICIPANTS WERE CLEARLY SELECTED IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THEY, WHILE APPEARING TO REPRESENT A CROSS SECTION OF WORLD OPINION, WOULD SUPPORT COMMUNIST VIEWS. EVEN SCHWOEBEL, WHO WAS THE ONLY ONE BALANCED IN HIS VIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BENT OVER BACKWARDS NOT TO ANNOY HIS HUNGARIAN HOSTS. GUINIER SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT THERE HAD BEEN DECISIVE CHANGES IN THE LIVES OF AMERICAN BLACKS SINCE HE FIRST WENT TO HARVARD IN 1929. HE STATED THAT IT WAS "INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE U.S. TO EXPLAIN TO OTHER PEOPLE AND OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUDAPE 02313 131354Z

COUNTRIES WHAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WHEN EVEN THE RUDIMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ARE LACKING IN THE U.S." AT TIMES PIERALLI FOUND HIMSELF MILDLY DEFENDING THE WEST FOR CRITICIZING "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES", BECAUSE "THE DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS WILL LEAD TO POSITIVE RESULTS..." HE CONTINUED, "IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES IN WHICH CRITICISM, WHICH IS JUSTIFIED TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, HAS RECENTLY BEEN VOICED REGARDING THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FOR RESTRICTING THE FREE EXPRESSION OF IDEAS, THERE IS ALSO A CERTAIN PROCESS OF SELF-CRITICISM, EVEN AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL." STRACHAN CONCERNED HIMSELF PRINCIPALLY WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES' RECOGNITION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND HOW THOSE COUNTRIES THAT NOW "RAISE THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS" COULD JUSTIFY RECOGNITION OF A GOVERNMENT ADVOCATING APARTHEID. BOLDIZSAR'S MAIN CONCERN WAS THAT THE WESTERN PRESS ONLY PRINTS NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

5. ALTHOUGH THIS TV DISCUSSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS FAR FROM BALANCED, THE VERY FACT THAT IT WAS BROADCAST IS OF SIGNIFICANCE. IT ALLOWED HUNGARIANS TO HEAR, ON THEIR OWN NATIONAL TELEVISION, AT LEAST A PORTION

OF THE WESTERN VIEW ON THIS ISSUE, AND IT ALSO PRE-
SENTED THE HUNGARIAN VIEWER WITH THE SOMEWHAT PUZZLING
DEVELOPMENT OF A MEMBER OF A FRATERNAL COMMUNIST PARTY
DEFENDING THE WEST FOR RAISING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE,
WHICH CONFIRMED EVEN TO THE CASUAL VIEWS THAT WITHIN
THE COMMUNIST WORLD THERE IS NO ONE MONOLITHIC VIEW ON
THIS ISSUE.

MUDD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DEBATES, TELEVISION BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUDAPE02313
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770249-0456
Format: TEL
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770764/aaaacdav.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6002586c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1881843
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE ON HUNGARIAN TELEVISION
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, HU, CSCE, (HAJOU, JANOS), (GUINIER, EWART), (STRACHAN, GARTH), (PIERALLI, PIERO), (BOLDIZSAR, IVAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6002586c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009